



LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

County of Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department Headquarters
4700 Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169

A Tradition of Service



March 01, 2011

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZE THE SHERIFF TO ACCEPT DONATIONS TO REPAIR AND
REFURBISH BARLEY FLATS HELIPAD SITE
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Request Board approval authorizing the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department) to accept monetary donations for the repair and refurbishment of the Barley Flats helipad site (Barley Flats).

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Authorize the Sheriff, or his designee, to accept gifts or donations from donors made to the County of Los Angeles, including donations exceeding \$10,000, for the repair and refurbishment of Barley Flats.
2. Request that the Sheriff send appreciation letters to each of the donors.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of this request is to authorize the Sheriff to accept donations for repairs to Barley Flats, including donations exceeding \$10,000.

The Department and fire districts utilize Barley Flats for their helicopter air rescue operations. Barley Flats is located in the vicinity of Mount Wilson, in the Angeles Crest Forest, near Highway 2. The 4.9-acre site is owned by the United States Forest Service (Forestry Service), and is operated by the Department under the Forest Service Granger Thye Special Use Permit LAR 1017000, which

expires on December 31, 2028. Additionally, the Forestry Service has decided to abandon the buildings on the site, and has provided a letter (attached) donating the buildings to the Los Angeles County (County).

Most of the facility was built in the 1940's and includes two buildings and a helicopter landing pad. In September 2009, the flames from the "Station Fire" came within feet of the already aging facility, causing smoke damage to the interior of the buildings. The majority of the damage was related to the water supply line and pump house, sewer, and overhead power lines.

Based on the damages, a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) claim by the County was submitted, however, it was determined there was no significant damage to the interior of the building, and the claim was not eligible for FEMA funding. This facility is extremely important for the Department and fire district's air operation teams as it often serves as the County's command post rescue station, and a base for various operations. Therefore, it is imperative that the electric, water, and septic systems be restored as soon as possible. Located at an elevation of 5,531 feet, the building is also important because it provides the air rescue staff with protection from the elements, especially during inclement weather.

The Department would like to refurbish the facility, so it can adequately support the continued performance of the Department's Air Rescue 5 teams and the fire district helicopter operations. On June 7, 2010, the Forestry Service authorized the Department to make the needed refurbishments. However, due to limited funding in the Department's budget, the Department is exploring various funding options, including the solicitation of private donations and labor force to complete the proposed improvements. The Department is proposing to finance the one-time cost of repairing the facility with donations. The total cost of the refurbishments is estimated to be approximately \$250,000.

To date, the Department has received \$61,018 in donations and plans to solicit further donations in the future.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This action meets the County's Strategic Plan, Goal 1, Operational Effectiveness: By supporting investment in public infrastructure to provide improved facilities within the Department; and Goal 5, Public Safety: Ensure that the committed efforts of the public safety partners continue to maintain and improve the safety and security of the people of the County by providing for the direct support of air rescue.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

To the extent donated funds are obtained, the requested action eliminates the need for County funds for this necessary expense.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

State law authorizes the acceptance of gifts for specific County purposes in Government Code Section 25355. Specifically, sections: 1) authorizes the Board to delegate to any County officer or employee the power to accept any gift made to the County; and 2) requires that the County officer or employee shall file with the Board each quarter a report that describes the source and value of each gift in excess of \$10,000 or any other amount as determined by the Board.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approval of this request will help ensure continued use of Barley Flats to support air rescue services to the public. There will be no negative impact on current Department services or projects as a result of these donations.

CONCLUSION

Upon approval by the Board, please return three adopted copies of this letter to the Department's Administrative Services Division.

Sincerely



LEROY D. BACA
Sheriff

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Enclosures



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Los Angeles River
Ranger District

12371 N. Little Tujunga Cyn. RD
San Fernando, CA 91342
818-899-1900 Voice
626-447-8992 TTY

File Code: 2720

Date: January 27, 2011

Mr. Michael Hanks
Sheriff's Department
County of Los Angeles
1000 South Fremont Street
Building A-9, East
Alhambra, CA 91803

Dear Mr. Hanks:

**BARRACKS/OFFICE/"READY ROOM" BUILDING ON THE BARLEY FLATS
HELIPORT SITE SPECIAL USE PERMIT #LAR101700**

In response to your request for permission to perform rehabilitation work on the Barracks/office/"ready room" building ("Building") on the Barley Flats Heliport Site, and as discussed before, the Forest Service (FS) has decided to abandon the Building and to donate it to the County of Los Angeles free of charge.

All rehabilitation work to replace/upgrade the Building can proceed without further approval from FS, provided the work will not result in any change to the building's external appearance and to the building's footprint. Any external changes, such as new roof, paint color, will need to be agreed with FS.

The above-mentioned donation will also necessitate the issuance of a new replacement permit for the Heliport Site to recognize that the building is no longer Federal property. This issue will be addressed separately with the CEO Real Estate Division in the near future.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact Mr. Graham Breakwell at (818) 899-1900 X243.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL J. MCINTYRE
District Ranger

Copy to Mr. Maurice Salama

